

12/14/25

2Thessalonians 2:8b-12

Last week we saw that the appearance of the lawless one is a result of the falling away, be it a falling from the faith or a reference to the rapture of the church in verse three.

The removal of the church is made very clear in verses six and seven, for it is the Holy Spirit working in and through the church that is the restraining force regarding the evil in the world.

Once the church is removed, all the breaks are removed and evil will have its day, without any checks and balances.

Remember that Paul is telling them that the Day of the Lord cannot come until this happened:

1. The falling away from faith takes place.
2. The removal of the church.

So Paul said, “Don't be shaken in mind or troubled, not by spirit, word or letter, don't be deceived.”

1. Paul had told them before. 2Thess. 1:5
2. God had not appointed them to wrath. 1Thess. 5:9

2:8b The future of the lawless one.

- * “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

- 1) The Antichrist will be revealed, this is the third time Paul has stated it. 2Thess. 2:3, 6, 7, 8a
 - a) We saw this last time, the son of perdition, the lawless one!
 - b) “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” 1Jn. 4:1-3
- 2) The Antichrist will be defeated by Christ.
 - * “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”
 - a) The Lord will consume him with the breath of His mouth.
 - 1)) The quote is from Isaiah. Is. 11:4
 - a)) The word consume “analisko” means to use up, destroy or slay.
 - b)) The focus being his person, emphasizing the authority of Jesus and the ease of the action.
 - b) King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about what was to become of his kingdom, so God revealed a great image of powerful nations that were struck by a stone at its feet. Dan. 2

- 1)) The head of gold, Babylon.
 - 2)) The arms and shoulders of silver, Medo-Persia.
 - 3)) The belly of brass, Greece, Alexander the great.
 - 4)) The legs of iron, the Roman empire and revived Roman empire.
 - 5)) The ten toes, a confederacy of ten nations headed by the Antichrist.
- c) Daniel saw in another dream and vision the same kingdoms, but not as man sees himself, powerful, but as beasts. Dan. 7
- 1)) He saw a lion, Babylon.
 - 2)) He saw a bear, Medo-Persia.
 - 3)) He saw a leopard, Greece.
 - 4)) He saw a beast with iron teeth and ten horns, Rome and the ten nations under the Antichrist. Dan. 7:7-28
 - 5)) The ten nation confederacy corresponds to the ten nation confederacy in Europe, the common market, ultimately under the Antichrist. Rev. 13:1; 17:12-13
- 3) The Antichrist will be destroy with the brightness of the coming of Jesus. Rev. 19:15
- a) The word destroy “Katargesei” means to be made inoperative, not annihilated.
 - b) The focus being the lawless man’s activities.
 - c) The brightness “epiphaneia”, the manifestation of his coming “parousia” the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, a word

used by the Greeks for the manifestation of a god or emperors.

* At His presence. 1Thess. 2:19

2:9-10 The source and nature of power of the lawless one.

2:9-10a The partnership of the Antichrist is described.

- 1) The Antichrist empowered by Satan. vs. 9a
* “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan.”
- a) The word coming “parousia” of the Antichrist, the lawless one, is in physical presence and 100% Satanic in dependence. vs. 9a
 - 1)) The Antichrist will ascend from the bottomless pit, abuso or shaft. Rev. 17:8
 - 2)) The Dragon, Satan, gives his power to the Antichrist, his seat, and great authority. Rev. 13:2
 - 3)) The Antichrist will be healed of a deadly head wound and worship Satan. Rev. 13:3-4
 - 4)) Zechariah declares the right eye of the Antichrist will be darkened and his right hand withered as a result. Zech. 11:17
- b) The word working “energeo” means Satans power in operation.

- 1)) According to the harmony and characteristic of Satan.
- 2)) Over the entire world.
- 2) The Antichrist is distinct from Satan. vs. 9a
 - a) The Antichrist and the False prophet are call “beast”. Rev. 13:11-12
 - b) The beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire alive. Rev. 19:20
 - c) The Devil is cast in to the lake of fire, where both the beast and false prophet shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev. 20:10
- 3) The Antichrist has supper-natural credentials. vs. 9b-d
 - * “with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”
 - a) All power to work miracles directly from Satan. Rev. 13:2
 - b) Signs refers to the significance behind the operation, in view of the people.
 - * The false prophet and Antichrist both will do this, foretold by Christ. Matt. 24:24; Rev. 13:11-15
 - c) Lying wonders, astonishing the observer in amazement, unexplainable through natural means, steeped in falsehood to seduce, all three are sourced in lying. Jn. 8:44
 - * All three, power, signs and wonders are used for the genuine works of Christ by his saints. Heb. 2:4

- 1)) The people that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names are not written in the book of life,” Rev. 17:8
- 2)) Miracles are not credentials that a person is from God.
 - * Jesus said to those who did miracles in His name, “I never knew you.” Matt. 7:21-23
- 3)) But let’s not limit God either and deny them for our day!
- 4) The Antichrist will be a powerful instrument of deception to the people. vs. 10a
 - * “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish.”
 - a) The deceit stems from unrighteousness, every sort of evil that deceives.
 - 1)) There is no truth in the Antichrist, he is a deceiver against Christ.
 - 2)) The world will fall into the greatest and most dark periods regarding the history of man.
 - b) The target are people, even as Eve was deceived by Satan. Gen. 3
 - 1)) The Antichrist has no concern for the people.
 - 2)) Literally it says, them that are perishing in operation constantly, part of “the apostasy”. vs. 3
 - 3)) She who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. 1Tim. 5:6; Eph. 2:1

- c) Through wealth, sin, pleasures, and lusts. Matt. 13:22; Heb. 3:13; 2Pet. 2:13; Eph. 4:22
- d) God takes no delight in the death of the wicked. Ezk. 33:11

2:10b-c The reason people will be deceived.

* “because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

- 1) The reason being that people will not and do not receive the love of the truth, rejecting it.
 - a) The reference is to God’s word about Himself and man’s sinfulness, the article being present indicates the gospel.
 - b) The Jews will be deceived by the Antichrist and confirm a one week covenant with him. Dan. 9:27
 - c) The Gentile world will follow their allegiance to the Antichrist.
- 2) The purpose of God’s message is to be saved.
 - a) Providing the revelation to man, the proclamation of the gospel.
 - b) Providing the needed sacrifice, The Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Jn. 1:29
 - c) Providing men to communicate the message by the power of the Holy Spirit to illuminate, convict and have them repent of their sins.
 - d) Perseverance in the doctrine of Christ that marks a disciple, abiding in Christ and

continuing. Jn. 8:31, 32; 15:1-8; Col. 1:23

* The entire contrast is “the lie” against “the truth”.

- 3) There are some who believe this may also refer to those who have rejected the gospel while under the age of grace and go into the Tabulation period?
 - a) They use the next two verses as a strong support!
 - b) This could be the case against those who hardened their hearts to the gospel and are left behind at the rapture?
- 4) The Biblical particulars about the Antichrist.
 - a) The Antichrist will be a Genius.
 - 1)) A horn with eyes, speaking of intelligence. Dan. 7:20
 - 2)) The Antichrist will understand dark sentences. Dan. 8:23
 - a)) Perhaps in terms of solving difficult problems.
 - b)) But for sure because he will be aided by Satan, the Prince of darkness himself.
 - 3)) The Antichrist will speak great things. Dan. 7:20
 - 4)) The people were astonished at the doctrine of Christ, so will they be at Antichrist, he is an imitator. Matt. 7:28

- 5)) The Antichrist will have a mouth like a Lion; Christ is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Rev. 13:2
- b) The Antichrist will be a political Wizzard.
 - 1)) He obtains kingdoms by flatteries. Dan. 11:21
 - 2)) He conquers through diplomacy, no arrows. Rev. 6:2
- c) The Antichrist will be a commercial Genius
 - 1)) He causes craft to prosper at his hand. Dan. 8:25
 - 2)) He will have power over the treasures of gold, silver, precious things. Dan. 11:43
 - 3)) He solves problems of theft by a number system. Rev. 13:17
- d) The Antichrist will be a military Genius.
 - 1)) He will destroy the mighty and holy people by power of Satan. Dan. 8:24
 - 2)) The people will say who is able to make war with him? Rev. 13:4
- e) The Antichrist will be a governmental Genius.
 - 1)) The ten toes represent the ten nations of iron and clay mixed. Dan. 12:33
 - 2)) The ten horns represent their global power handed over to him. Dan. 7:7
 - 3)) The Antichrist unites the kingdom. Rev. 13:1-2

- 4)) The Antichrist receives the allegiance of the kingdom fulfilling the word of God. Rev. 17:17
- f) The Antichrist will be a religious monument.
 - 1)) The Antichrist will set himself up as God to be worshipped. Matt. 24:15; 2Thess. 2:4
 - 2)) All the world wonders after the Beast, the Antichrist, after he survives an assassination attempt of a deadly head wound. Rev. 13:3
 - 3)) The Antichrist demands worship. Rev. 13:14-15
 - a)) Antiochus Epiphany sacrificed a pig on the alter and caused the priest to eat the meat, the short term fulfillment.
 - b)) Nero was called the Beast.
 - c)) Hitler killed millions of Jews and gave them a number.
 - d)) The Antichrist is the long-term and ultimate fulfillment.

2:11-12

The righteous judgment of God.

2:11 The giving over of the people by God to their will.

* “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie.”

- 1) God is in control and ordering things during the Day of the LORD or Tribulation and Great-Tribulation, Satan is only acting out what God has prophesied, the judge of man. Jn. 5:22
 * Throughout the book of Revelation it is stated repeatedly “given to them” be it in power, authority or permission to do or act in fulfillment of the word of God.
- 2) The sending of strong delusion of the Antichrist is in view of their hardened hearts.
 * The people will believe the lies and deceit of the Antichrist. vs. 9-10
- 3) The outcome is that the people should believe the lie, literally, the lie, Satan.
 - a) God does this through long patience, giving them up to uncleanness, vile affections and reprobate minds for changing the truth of God into a lie. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28
 - b) God is seen as putting a lying spirit in the prophet’s mouth, after ongoing rebellion. 1Kings 22:23
 - c) In He answered them according to their idols. Ezk. 14:1-5, 9
 - d) Pharaoh hardened his heart and God strengthened it in that position!
 - e) Jesus gave the three-fold work of the Holy Spirit to the world. Jn. 16:8-11

- * “He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”
 - f) But the world is too callous, unable to receive.
 - g) The Holy Spirit is not removed from the world, but the church.
 - h) The Holy Spirit is God and is all present, but the age of grace has closed, yet the Spirit of Grace searches for repentant sinners who call on Jesus to be saved.
 - 4) Revelation gives us the three-fold division of the book. Rev. 1:19
 - a) The vision of the glorified Christ, things he saw. Rev. 1
 - b) The messages to the seven churches, things which are, at the present time and the church age. Rev. 2-3
 - c) The church is in heaven at the rapture to heaven, while the seven years of tribulation begin, things hereafter “meta tauta”. Rev. 4-22
- 2:12** The outcome of God allowing the delusion.

- * “that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- 1) That the people may be condemned.
 - * The word condemned “krino” means to sift or judge, the verdict of their guilt, calling them to account.
- 2) The reason is two-fold.
 - a) The fact that they did not believe the truth.
 - b) The fact that they had pleasure in unrighteousness, they are not victims, but participants who consented by choice. 1Thess. 1:10; 5:9; 2Thess. 1:9
- 3) The Scriptures tell us.
 - a) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, the context is the believers who were going back to animal sacrifices, instead of abiding in Christ. Heb. 10:30-31
 - * “For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge **His people**.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
 - b) The warning again is to believers. Heb. 12:25-26
 - * “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth,

- much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.”
- c) The reason is stated, “For our God is a consuming fire.” Heb. 12:29
- d) The church of Thyatira was given time to repent, but did not, so Jesus cast her into Great-Tribulation. Rev. 2:18-22
- 4) There are five warnings found in Hebrews, directed to Hebrews Christians who were considering going back to the law and sacrifice.
 - * All the warnings to not be deceived or apostasy in Scriptures, new and Old Testament is to the believer, unbeliever are deceived, dead in trespasses and sin in need of being born again by repenting!
 - a. Don’t drift from what you have heard. Heb. 2.1
 - b. Don’t disbelieve or depart from the living God. Heb. 3:12
 - c. Don’t degenerate in your spiritual growth. Heb. 5:12
 - d. Don’t despise the Spirit of Grace. Heb. 10:29
 - e. Don’t defy what you have heard, the warning is against disobeying the call of God. Heb. 12:25

* Notice the progression and severity increases!

- f. Listen to Paul, “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.” Rom. 13:11-14